Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: FURTHER ESCALATION IN LEFT-RIGHT CONFLICT IN BAVARIAN SPD

REF: MUNICH 2188

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. THE LONG-STANDING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LEFT AND RIGHT WINGS OF THE MUNICH SPD HAS CONTINUED TO ESCALATE DESPITE THE FAST-APPROACHING VACATION SEASON. RIGHT WING ELEMENTS HAVE REACTED SHARPLY TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AGAINST FORMER SPD CITY COUNCIL FLOOR LEADER AND OTHER PROMINENT RIGHT WINGERS. DENOUEMENT OF LEFT-RIGHT STRUGGLE IS NOT REPEAT NOT YET IN SIGHT. MEANWHILE, ORDINARY VOTERS IN MUNICH AND ELSEWHERE IN BAVARIA ARE AGAIN WITNESSING SPECTACLE OF SPD WASHING ITS DIRTY LINEN PUBLICLY. END SUMMARY.

2. EIGHT CITY COUNCILLORS WALK OUT. THE RIGHT WING'S FIRST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACTION TO THE RECENT ANNOUNCED DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CITY COUNCIL FLOOR LEADER PREISSEINGER TOOK FORM OF DECISION BY MUNICH LORD MAYOR KRONAWITTER AND EIGHT RIGHT WING CITY COUNCILLORS TO WALK OUT OF JULY 25 MEETING OF SPD CITY COUNCIL "FRAKTION." THIS WAS LAST CITY COUNCIL MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

3. KRONAWITTER TO SEEK REELECTION? BY MID-WEEK SPD RIGHT WINGERS

HERE WERE DISCUSSING MERITS OF A POSSIBLE KRONAWITTER BID FOR REELECTION AS AN INDEPENDENT. (N.B. KRONAWITTER WHO BELONGS TO RIGHT WING OF MUNICH SPD, WAS NOT REPEAT NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN HIS PARTY'S NOMINATION AS CANDIDATE FOR LORD MAYOR IN 1978.)

4. SECOND KRONAWITTER LETTER TO BRANDT. EARLY IN WEEK KRONAWITTER RECEIVED SIX-LINE TELEGRAM FROM SPD GENERAL MANAGER BAHR WHICH PURPORTED TO BE RESPONSE TO KRONAWITTER LETTER URGING BRANDT TO EXCLUDE "STAMOKAP" ADHERENTS FROM SPD. THE BAHR TELEGRAM SUGGESTED THAT KRONAWITTER HAD MISINTERPRETED SPD FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER VON OERTZEN'S ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING NOTION THAT "STAMOKAP" VIEWS AND BASIC PROVISIONS OF GODESBERG PROGRAM ARE RECONCILABLE. ON JULY 26 KRONAWITTER SENT SECOND LETTER TO BRANDT ASSERTING THAT BRANDT AND BAHR HAD FAILED TO IDENTIFY CONCRETE INSTANCES IN WHICH HE HAD MISINTERPRETED VON OERTZEN'S ARGUMENTS AND REPEATING CALL FOR EXCLUSION OF "STAMOKAP" ADHERENTS FROM SPD.

5. LEAK OF VOGEL'S DEFENSE OF PREISSINGER. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT SALVO FIRED BY RIGHT WAS DELIBERATE LEAK OF TEXT OF FEDMIN JUSTICE VOGEL'S STATEMENT TO SPD SOUTHERN BAVARIA DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN DEFENSE OF PREISSINGER. VOGEL CITED COPIOUS QUOTATIONS IN EFFORT TO PROVE VALIDITY OF PREISSINGER'S ASSERTION THAT MUNICH SPD WAS PURSUING A SYSTEMATIC SOCIALIST COURSE WHICH WAS INCONSISTENT WITH IDEA OF BROADLY BASED PEOPLES' PARTY (VOLKSPARTEI). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. COMMENT. THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT TO INTERNECINE STRIFE IN MUNICH SPD. IN FACT, "RIGHTISTS" LIKE PREISSINGER HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN SEEING MUNICH SPD FARE POORLY AT POLLS IN MARCH 1978 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS. RIGHTISTS HAVE BEEN CLAIMING THAT PRESENT MUNICH SPD LEADERSHIP, BY PURSUING DOCTRINAIRE SOCIALIST COURSE WHICH IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH FROM THAT OF THE COMMUNISTS, IS ALIENATING VOTERS WHO WOULD SUPPORT AN SPD PURSUING A "VOLKSPARTEI" COURSE. LEADING OFFICIALS IN SPD HEADQUARTERS IN BONN MUST BE BOTH PERPLEXED AND CHAGRINED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR BAVARIAN BROTHERS WHO SEEM TO BE BENT ONHELPING CSU CAPTURE THE MUNICH RATHAUS IN 1978. GILMORE

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